

MYSTIC COOPERATIVE TASK GROUP

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Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, Members of the Transportation Committee,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the membership of the Mystic Cooperative Task Group in support of Proposed Bill No. 5937, "An Act Concerning a Study of Extending Passenger Rail Service from the City of New London."

The Mystic Cooperative Task Group is a regional group that was founded in 1997, made up of representatives from the Towns of Groton and Stonington and the major visitor attractions in Mystic including the Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium, Olde Mistick Village and Downtown Mystic.

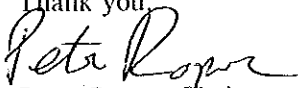
Since its inception, the Mystic Cooperative Task Group has made transportation issues as a top priority. One major discussion point has been how to increase rail ridership to Mystic, including the expansion of Shoreline East to the Mystic Train Depot.

The Mystic Cooperative Task Group wholeheartedly supports studying the feasibility of commuter rail from New London's Union Station to T.F. Green Airport. This would enable more visitors to arrive in Mystic using rail service, therefore eliminating some of the traffic issues that we face in Mystic and on Interstate 95. Additionally, this would provide the opportunity for Connecticut residents to travel to TF Green Airport by rail and connect with rail to the greater Boston area.

This would benefit us by expanding our region's economic development opportunities, while improving the quality of life in the area and addressing the environmental impacts of traffic.

We ask to you join our support for Proposed Bill No. 5937.

Thank you,



Peter Roper, Chair
Mystic Cooperative Task Group